



The official newspaper of
Rocky Mountain National Park
Fall - 2012, September 4 - October 20



Elk Viewing

When temperatures cool and there are fewer minutes of daylight, aspen trees pull the chlorophyll out of their leaves, turning them glorious shades of gold, yellow and red. Bull elk "bugle" to gather harems of cows, their shrill calls ringing out through the evening twilight. In the fall, you can see and hear the spectacle of the elk rut, their annual mating ritual. This activity is most easily experienced in the waning light of day.

Prime elk viewing areas include: Moraine Park, Horseshoe Park, and Upper Beaver Meadows on the east side of the park.

On the west side, elk can often be seen throughout the Kawuneeche Valley, especially Holzwarth Meadow and Harbison Meadow.

For the good of the animals and other visitors:

- Park using roadside pullouts -- do not park on vegetation
- Turn off car lights and engine upon parking
- Stay by the roadside when viewing animals
- Do not approach animals closely -- wildlife are unpredictable
- Never use artificial lights or calls
- Do not walk into posted meadows between 5 p.m. and 7 a.m.
- Watch for other cars & keep an eye on children
- Never feed wildlife

Five meadows are closed to entry between 5 p.m. and 7 a.m. daily between September 1 and October 31 to minimize disturbance to elk: Moraine Park, Horseshoe Park, Upper Beaver Meadows, Harbison Meadow, and Holzwarth Meadow.

Things you need to know about construction on Bear Lake Road

Bear Lake Road is one of the most popular scenic roads in Rocky Mountain National Park and provides year-round visitor access to a variety of wonderful recreational opportunities. The park is in the first year of a major two-year reconstruction project on the lower section of the road.

The construction is taking place on Bear Lake Road from the junction of Trail Ridge Road/Highway 36 to the Park & Ride – Glacier Basin Campground intersection, covering 5.1 miles. The work is similar in scope and impacts as the first phase of reconstruction which was completed in 2004 and took place on the upper 4.3 mile section of road. This major project involves construction of significant retaining walls to improve safety and drainage. In addition, a 0.9 mile section is being rerouted away from Glacier Creek in order to prevent impacts to wetlands and riparian habitat and reduce costs. Repairs will be made on the Big Thompson Bridge to improve safety. Structural deficiencies will be corrected in the roadway and inadequate parking and pullout design will be improved. This project will widen the road and improve the road surface to better accommodate park shuttle buses. Safety associated with winter snow removal will be enhanced by the wider road.

EXPECT DELAYS!

Through October 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bear Lake Road, approximately one mile southwest of Moraine Park Visitor Center to Bear Lake, will be accessible by free shuttle bus only, seven days a week. Private vehicles will be allowed both directions prior to 9 a.m. and after 4 p.m.

Visitors in private vehicles who make the 9 a.m. cutoff time will be allowed to travel out of the area throughout the day. All visitors, in private vehicles or shuttle buses, should expect at least two 20-minute delays both directions through the construction area. There will be no construction delays between Park & Ride and Bear Lake. The road is closed to all traffic each Tuesday and Thursday night from 10:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. through October 9.

Beginning October 10, private vehicles may access Bear Lake Road throughout the day. Shuttle buses will not run. Expect up to two, 30-minute delays each direction due to construction. Also, the road could be closed to all traffic from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. seven days a week. For updated night closures call 970-586-1222 or stop at a visitor center.

PLAN AHEAD

Bear Lake Route shuttles heading both to and from Moraine Park Visitor Center and Bear Lake are experiencing significant delays of more than 2 hours in transit times in addition to wait times at the shuttle stops. Demand can exceed the capacity of the buses which increases wait times even longer.

If you plan to board the shuttles, please be prepared with water and snacks and expect a lengthy trip.

Best options - hike early or late – prior to 9 a.m. or after 4 p.m. through October 9.

Explore other areas of Rocky Mountain National Park.

SHUTTLE BUSES

The park's three shuttle routes are modified during the construction. Please see the back page of this newspaper for shuttle route maps and information.

PARK FACILITIES

Most facilities along Bear Lake Road are available to the public during the reconstruction project. However, Glacier Basin Campground and the Tuxedo Park picnic area and shuttle stop are closed. Numerous pull-off areas may be closed at times during the construction.

Moraine Park Visitor Center is open daily, through October 8, however visitors should expect congestion and very limited parking. Visitors should also expect congestion and limited parking at the popular picnic and angler area in lower Moraine Park, north of the Big Thompson River.

SUGGESTIONS & OPTIONS

Though next year, visitors who plan to go to the Bear Lake area will have easier access if they plan ahead, hike early or hike late, and carpool. All trailheads along the Bear Lake Corridor, the Park & Ride, Moraine Park Visitor Center and Beaver Meadows Visitor Center have limited parking spaces available. Explore other areas of Rocky Mountain National Park. For those visitors who want to access the Bear Lake area between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., one option is to take the Hiker Shuttle in to Rocky Mountain National Park. **Between transit times and wait times - expect a lengthy trip!**

OUR FUTURE

Rocky Mountain National Park is approaching its centennial anniversary in 2015. Bear Lake Road was completed in 1928 and no major roadwork has taken place on the lower section for more than 80 years. When this project is complete, just prior to the park's hundredth anniversary, it will conclude over 47 miles of critical improvements on park roads since 2003.

Visitor Centers

East of the Divide – Estes Park Area



Beaver Meadows Visitor Center

Open daily 8 to 6, Sept. 4 - Oct. 8.
8 to 5, Oct. 9 - Oct. 20.
Features spectacular free park movie, information, bookstore, and backcountry permits in an adjacent building.



Fall River Visitor Center

Open daily 9 to 5.
Features life-size wildlife displays, a children's discovery room, information and a bookstore.



Alpine Visitor Center

Open daily (weather permitting) 10:30 to 4:30, Sept. 4 - Oct. 8.
Features extraordinary views of alpine tundra, displays, information, bookstore, adjacent gift shop and cafe.
Call 586-1222 for Trail Ridge Road conditions.



Moraine Park Visitor Center

Open daily 9 to 5, Sept. 4 - Oct. 8.
Interactive exhibits on the past and present landscape, and a bookstore. Great views of glaciated Moraine Park.

West of the Divide – Grand Lake Area



Kawuneeche Visitor Center

Open daily 8 to 6 through September 29.
8 to 5, Sept. 30 - Oct. 13.
8 to 4:30, Oct. 14 until spring.
Features free movies, exhibits on wonders of the park, a bookstore, and backcountry permits.

What Can I Do While I'm Here in Rocky?

Rocky Mountain National Park has so much to offer, whether you have a couple of hours, a couple of days, or more. Here are some ideas:

If You Only Have Two Hours

- Stop at a visitor center, explore the exhibits, and talk to a ranger.

◇ On the east side:

- The scenic road to Bear Lake is open year-round. However, it is currently under reconstruction. See the front page for more information. To avoid congestion, hop aboard a free park shuttle bus. See the back page for schedules.
- Loop through Horseshoe Park and drive up to the Alluvial Fan.
- Look for wildlife. Year-round, elk, mule deer, and bighorn sheep may be seen.
- Go as far as you want on Trail Ridge Road. Every one of the many overlooks provide spectacular fall views.

◇ On the west side:

- Drive as far as you want on Trail Ridge Road, and enjoy the many scenic overlooks and pull-offs. Depending on traffic, the Continental Divide at Milner Pass is about 40 minutes from Kawuneeche Visitor Center.
- Visit Holzwarth Historic Site and get a taste of early tourism at one of the first dude ranches in Colorado. Self-guided booklet available.
- Look for moose in the Kawuneeche Valley.
- Take a short walk on one of the area trails.

If You Only Have Four Hours

Do any of the above PLUS:

- Take a stroll on a self-guided nature trail.
- Linger longer at overlooks and pull-offs to read the wayside exhibits.
- Experience the wilderness of the park's backcountry on a hike. Check with a ranger for trail suggestions.
- Attend a ranger-led activity or program. Lists are on pages 5 & 6.
- Enjoy a picnic. Picnic areas are marked on the park map.
- Go horseback riding. Two stables are located in the park. Several more are located adjacent to the park and lead rides into the park. See page 3.
- Go fishing. Many streams and lakes harbor trout.
- Try bird watching. A beautiful variety of birds call Rocky home.

If You Have a Day (or more)

Do any of the above PLUS:

- Go farther. Take a longer drive or hike.
- Take time for yourself to soak in the magnificent fall colors. Unwind and detach from the world (cell phones don't work in most of the park).
- Become a Junior Ranger. Designed for children 12 and younger, booklets (Spanish and English) include fun activities the whole family can enjoy. Pick up a booklet at a park visitor center and earn a Junior Ranger badge.
- Visit other parts of the park. This is a big place and there is a lot to see.
- Combine a variety of the above.

Whatever you do, enjoy your visit to Rocky Mountain National Park!

Park Phone Numbers and Website



Bear Lake Road Reconstruction & Trail Ridge Road status: (970) 586-1222

Call Park Information (970) 586-1206 with your questions. We are available to assist you from 8 to 4:30 daily.



The Official Park Website is <http://www.nps.gov/romo>

Follow us on Twitter @ RMNPOfficial

Like us on Facebook @ Rocky Mountain National Park



Hearing impaired persons may call the TTY at (970) 586-1319 from 8 to 5 daily



Dial 911 to report emergencies

Weather and Road Conditions

Trail Ridge Road is open daily, weather permitting. Trail Ridge Road usually closes for season around mid-October. For current park road and driving conditions, please stop at a visitor center. Call the Trail Ridge Road status line (970) 586-1222 for current road status.

Old Fall River Road is open when weather permits. The road is narrow, one-way up only, has tight switchbacks, and no guardrails. Vehicles over 25 feet long and trailers are prohibited.

The park Information Office operates seven days a week and can be reached at (970) 586-1206. For more information see www.twitter.com/RMNPOfficial, or the park website at www.nps.gov and click on road conditions.



For your convenience, free WIFI is available in and around the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center and the Kawuneeche Visitor Center.

This Park Paper

The park newspaper is produced by Rocky Mountain National Park in cooperation with -- and funding provided by -- the Rocky Mountain Nature Association. Printed on recycled paper.



Photo: Dieter Heinrich

Advance reservations only
Call 970-586-3262

Tickets: \$40 adults
\$20 kids 12 and under

ELK EXPEDITIONS!

www.rmna.org

EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURES BY BUS

Travel to the best sites in RMNP to view elk during the fall rut! Learn about elk natural history with an on-board naturalist and discover the magic of autumn in the high country.

Friday & Saturday eves.

September 14 - October 20, 2011

5:30 p.m. - dusk



You Need to Know

Bicycles in the Park

Bicycling is permitted on public roads, both paved and dirt, but not on trails. There are no bike paths and many roads are narrow and have little or no shoulders, so ride single file & cautiously.

Concessions Services

Horseback Riding

• Sombrero Ranch

Estes Park: 1895 Big Thompson Ave.
(970) 586-4577 Open year-round
Allenspark: 211 Main St.
(303) 747-2551
Grand Lake: 304 W. Portal Rd.
(970) 627-1083
Closed end of September

• Winding River Resort

Grand Lake: 1447 County Rd. 491,
(970) 627-3215
Closed end of September

• National Park Gateway Stables

Rocky Mountain Gateway near the Fall River Entrance on U.S. 34
(970) 586-5269
Closed mid-October

• CowPoke Corner Corral Stables

YMCA Road on Highway 66 at Glacier Lodge (970) 586-5890
Closed mid-October

• Hi Country Stables

Located in Rocky Mountain National Park
Moraine Park (970) 586-2327
Closed mid-October
Glacier Creek (970) 586-3244
Closed mid-September

• Meeker Park Stables

Meeker Park (303) 747-2266
Closed after Labor Day

• Jackson Stables

YMCA of the Rockies Livery
(970) 586-3341
Closed mid-October

Gifts and Food

• Trail Ridge Store

Gifts and cafe. (970) 586-2133
Open weather permitting 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closes October 8

Mountaineering

• Colorado Mountain School

Rock Climbing - open year around.
Estes Park, (800) 836-4008

Firearms

A federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under Federal, Colorado, and local laws, to possess firearms in Rocky Mountain National Park. It is the visitor's responsibility to understand and comply with all applicable state and federal firearms laws.

- Hunting, recreational shooting, and target practice are not allowed in Rocky Mountain National Park.

- Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in this park; those buildings are posted with signs at public entrances.

- If you have questions, please contact the Park Information Office at (970) 586-1206.

Food Storage

Do not attract wildlife, including black bears, to your campsite or parked vehicle. Keep a clean camp! Never leave food items unsecured or unattended. Improperly stored or unattended food items will result in a violation notice. "Food items" include food, drinks, toiletries, cosmetics, pet food and bowls, and odoriferous attractants. Garbage, including empty cans, food wrappers, etc., must be stored or disposed of in trash or recycling receptacles.

Store food items by one of the following methods:

- Inside vehicle trunks; be sure windows are closed and doors are locked.

- In vehicles without trunks, items should be placed as low in the vehicle passenger compartment as possible and covered from sight, with windows closed and doors locked.

See page 4 for food storage while camping.

Picnicking

Picnic areas are located throughout Rocky Mountain National Park. Check the park map for specific locations and directions.

Lost and Found

Please turn found items in at any park visitor center. To inquire about lost items, call the Backcountry Office at (970) 586-1242.

Park Entrance Fees

Automobile Entrance Fee - Single-family vehicle entrance fee is valid for seven consecutive days, including date of purchase. \$20

Rocky Mountain National Park

Annual Pass - Provides unlimited entry to this park for one year from the date of purchase. \$40

Rocky Mountain National Park/

Arapaho National Recreation Area

Annual Pass - Provides unlimited entry to both areas for one year from the date of purchase. \$50

America the Beautiful – National

Parks and Federal Recreational

Lands Annual Pass

- Available to everyone which provides access to, and use of, Federal recreation sites that charge an entrance or standard amenity fee for one year from date of purchase. \$80

America the Beautiful – National

Parks and Federal Recreational

Lands Senior Pass

- A lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or older. \$10

America the Beautiful Military Pass

- Free unlimited entry to federal recreation sites (including National Parks) for active duty military personnel and dependents with required proper identification (CAC Card or DD Form 1173) for one year.

America the Beautiful – National

Parks and Federal Recreational

Lands Access Pass

- A free lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with a permanent disability.

Fees may be paid by check, cash, or credit card.

Fishing

Obtain specific park regulations at visitor centers or park entrance stations. To fish in Rocky Mountain National Park, you must have a valid Colorado state fishing license.

Pets and Service Animals

Pets are allowed in the park, but only in picnic areas, campgrounds and along roadsides, never on trails or meadow areas. Pets must be on leashes no longer than six feet when outside vehicles. For the safety of your pet and the protection of park wildlife and other visitors, pets and their food should not be left unattended. You may not leave your pet unattended in vehicles if it creates a danger to the animal or if it becomes a public nuisance. Pets may not be left tied to vehicles, trees or other objects.

A Pet Brochure, available at visitor

Service animals that have been individually trained to perform specific tasks for the benefit of persons with disabilities are allowed in the park. A service animal that is allowed in park facilities, trails, etc., must be doing so in the service of a disabled person. Emotional support ("therapy animals") are not service animals under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), but are pets, and may not access trails or other non-motorized areas, nor park buildings. Service dogs-in-training are not service animals under ADA, but are considered pets.

Campfires

Campfires are permitted in campgrounds and picnic areas where fire grates are provided. Campfires are not allowed in the backcountry. Collecting vegetation, living or dead, is prohibited. Firewood is for sale at all park campgrounds.



Recycling Available in Major Park Locations

Leave No Trace

With approximately 3 million visitors every year, the wild lands of Rocky Mountain National Park are heavily used. While hiking, camping, and all your park activities, do your part to preserve this national treasure by following the seven easy Leave No Trace Ethics:

- Plan ahead and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Minimize campfire impacts
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors

For more information visit
<http://www.lnt.org/>



Junior Ranger

Free Junior Ranger books are available at park visitor centers for children ages 12 and under. A successfully completed book earns a badge! You are an important part of this park. Stay in touch. Contact us anytime at:
romo_junior_ranger@nps.gov

Los libros de guardaparque juveniles son para niños que tiene 12 años o menos. se pueden obtener sin costo en el centro de visitantes del parque. Si se completa el libro con éxito puede recibir una insignia!



Love Rocky Mountain National Park?
Help us make it even better!

Become a Member or donate today!
www.rmna.org

If you've walked the Lily Lake Trail, explored the Fall River Visitor Center, or introduced a child to nature through the park's Junior Ranger Program, you know our work.

Rocky Mountain Nature Association

Supporting the park since 1931.



Surviving The Park

Falling Trees

Falling trees are an ever-present hazard. When traveling or camping in the forest, trees can fall without warning. Be particularly watchful when it’s windy, or following a snowstorm when branches are heavy with snow. Avoid parking where trees could fall.

Mountain Climbing

Specialized skills and equipment may be required to safely reach a summit. Snow can fall at any time and mornings can be icy. Be aware and prepared. Summiting Longs Peak is not a hike, but a climb. Ask for information before you climb or visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/longspeak.htm>

High Elevation

A large number of the visitors to this park each year experience symptoms of altitude sickness. Symptoms range from headache and dizziness to nausea and eventually unconsciousness. Rocky Mountain has the highest average elevation of any national park -- even the main road climbs to 12,183 feet! The road is higher than most U.S. mountains. High altitude can also aggravate existing medical conditions such as heart and lung diseases. Take your time and be sure to drink plenty of water. The only cure for altitude sickness is to **go down** to a lower elevation.

Lightning

People are killed by lightning every year in Colorado. Afternoon storms are frequent and can bring an unhappy end to a hike. Watch for approaching storms and be well below treeline or back in your car before the storm hits. If you are caught out in the open during a lightning storm, do not seek shelter under a tree or rock overhang. You want to squat down as low as you can, keeping both feet together and avoid being the tallest thing around you. Keep your pack, hiking poles, and all metal away from you while you are exposed.

Hiking Safety

With over 350 miles of trails, the park offers a vast array of choices. Many higher trails and shaded areas can hold snow well into July. Please check at a visitor center for current conditions before hiking. Even for short day trips, be sure to pack gear for all types of weather (sun, rain, snow, wind). Windproof/waterproof clothing is essential gear to wear or carry.

Trail Tips: stay together. This is the most important tip that comes from the experience of park search and rescue teams! Be prepared for the rigors of high elevation -- drink plenty of water, and travel at a pace where you can still talk and breathe easily. If you feel poorly, descend to a lower elevation. Pack it in, pack it out, including remains of all your food (pits, peels, etc.), and facial tissues. Let nature’s sounds prevail; avoid loud voices and noises. Pets are not allowed on park trails.

Longs Peak Keyhole Route

The Keyhole Route is NOT a hike! It is a climb with exposure requiring scrambling where an unroped fall would likely be fatal. The route has narrow ledges, loose rock, and steep cliffs. A permit is not required. The best route follows red and yellow bulls-eyes. If you lose the bulls-eyes you are likely off route and will encounter more difficult climbing with more severe consequences. It is important to retrace your steps back to the bulls-eyes before continuing. The Keyhole Route can experience winter-like conditions at any time, requiring greater skill and judgment. Be prepared to turn back during sudden, drastic weather changes. The high elevation may affect your condition and judgment. Careful descent is the best treatment. Don’t have summit fever; enjoy the experience, but be willing to turn around at any time.

Hypothermia

Hypothermia is a serious and sometimes fatal condition brought on by exposure to wet and cold. The core body temperature drops to a level that impairs normal muscle and brain activities. Symptoms include drowsiness, loss of judgment or coordination, slurred speech, and uncontrolled shivering. If these symptoms occur, warm the chilled person with dry clothing and warm, nonalcoholic liquids. Get back to your car and seek medical attention.

Mountain Lions and Bears

Mountain lions and black bears are powerful and potentially dangerous. Some general guidelines for traveling in backcountry areas of Rocky Mountain where wildlife may be encountered:

- 1) **Travel in Groups** and make noise as you hike. Keep your group, especially children, close together.
- 2) **Do Not Approach** a mountain lion or bear.
- 3) **Stay Calm** when you see a mountain lion or bear.
- 4) **Stop**; back away slowly. Never turn your back and run.
- 5) Leave immediately if bear cubs are present, a bear huffs, pops its jaw, stomps a paw, or if a bear or mountain lion doesn't leave the area.
- 6) **Stand Tall and Look Large**. Raise your arms. Protect small children by picking them up.
- 7) If approached, **make loud noises**, shout, clap hands, clang pots and pans.
- 8) If attacked by a mountain lion or bear, **Fight Back!**

Be Prepared

Be prepared for all types of weather, no matter what activity you are enjoying in the national park. Unforeseen weather conditions can change a short afternoon hike into an unpleasant experience. Carry a windproof/ snowproof outer shell and extra layers of clothing. Drink plenty of water; high elevation, wind, and cold can be chilling and dry you out. Most importantly, stay dry!

Fall Camping 2012

PARK CAMPGROUND	Elev (feet)	# sites In fall	Reservable	Fall Firewood & Ice	Max RV/Trailer Length	Fall Dump Station	Notes
Aspenglen	8225	54	Yes	Yes	30'	No	Located on US Highway 34 by the Fall River Entrance.
Last night to stay is 9/29							
Glacier Basin							
Closed 2012							
Longs Peak	9425	26	Always first-come, first-served	Firewood only - while the water is on	Tents only	No	Located off Highway 7 south of Estes Park. Flush toilets summer; vault toilets winter.
Open year-round							
Moraine Park	8160	244	Yes	Yes	Limited # of RV/ trailer sites up to 40'	Yes	Located via Bear Lake Road
Open year-round.							
Reservable from 5/23 thru 10/8			Exception in summer 2012: B Loop is first-come, first-served	Daily in Sept. - Weekends in Oct.			-Flush toilets, except B & E Loops have vault toilets year-round. -D Loop: no generators allowed. -Pay phones. -On fall shuttle route.
Timber Creek	8900	98	Always first-come, first-served	Firewood only	30'	Yes	The only west side campground. No shade due to hazard tree removal.
Open year-round							

Overnight stays in Rocky Mountain National Park must be in a campground (or a backcountry site). You may not stay overnight in your car or RV along a road or at a trailhead. It is common for all park campgrounds to fill on most summer days and fall weekends.

Reservations for late-May through September can be made six months to one day in advance and are highly recommended. To make a reservation: www.recreation.gov or 1-877-444-6777.

Fees to Camp

- When the water is on (fall), all campgrounds are \$20.00/site/night.
- When the water is off (winter), Longs Peak, Timber Creek, and Moraine Park Loop B campgrounds are \$14/site/night.
- America the Beautiful Senior and Access Pass holders receive a 50% discount on camping fees.
- Park entrance fees and camping fees can be paid by cash, check or credit card.

STAY LIMITS

The maximum length of stay is seven nights total between June 1 and September 30, plus an additional 14 nights between October 1 and May 31. Stay limits are on a parkwide basis rather than on a per campground basis.

At All Standard Campsites

- No more than eight people may camp at a given site.
- All campsites, including RV sites, have a tent pad, picnic table and fire grate.
- Tents must fit on the tent pad; two or three tents are allowed, as long as they fit.
- There are no electric, water or sewer hookups at any park campsites.
- Showers - NEW in 2012: bring a solar camp shower bag to hang in the newly-constructed stall facility (no running water) at Moraine Park Campground. There are no other shower facilities in the park, but showers are available in nearby communities. Portable showers are prohibited. Remember, toiletries attract wildlife and need to be properly stored when not in use.

- The maximum number of vehicles allowed per site is two.

Pets

All campgrounds allow pets with certain restrictions: they must be on a leash no longer than six feet; pet owners must pick up and dispose of pet excrement in trash receptacles; pets may not make noise that impacts visitors or wildlife. Pets are never allowed on any park trails or in meadow areas. Pets should never be left unattended.

Food Storage

Do not attract wildlife, including black bears, to your campsite. Keep a clean camp! Never leave food items unsecured or unattended. Improperly stored or unattended food items will result in a violation notice. “Food items” include food, drinks, toiletries, cosmetics, pet food and bowls, and odoriferous attractants. Garbage, including empty cans, food wrappers, etc., must be stored or disposed of in trash or recycling receptacles. Hummingbird feeders and bird feeders are attractants for wildlife such as

raccoons, elk, deer, and bears, and are not allowed in campgrounds. Coolers, dirty stoves, grills, non-disposable tableware and cookware must be washed and stored in the same manner as food. Camp kitchens must be kept clean and individual items properly stored. In campgrounds, store all food items in food storage lockers; if full, store food items by one of the following methods:

- Inside vehicle trunks; be sure windows are closed and doors are locked.
- In vehicles without trunks, items should be placed as low in the vehicle passenger compartment as possible and covered from sight, with windows closed and doors locked.
- Visitors with convertibles or motorcycles are encouraged to use food storage lockers. Food storage lockers which are available in all park campgrounds. Location symbols are on campground maps. Food storage lockers, which are approximately 3' x 4' x 3' are shared with other visitors and cannot be locked.

Free Ranger Programs - Alpine & East Side



All children must be accompanied by an adult

Alpine		Length	Location	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
High Country Tails - Come learn about amazing alpine animals and what they can tell us about living life on the mountaintops. Ends 10/8		30 minute talk	Alpine Visitor Center		2 p.m.	2 p.m.			2 p.m.	2 p.m.
Daytime Programs - East										
Autumn Bird Walk - Join a ranger in search of fall migrants in an excellent birding area. For all levels of birders. Bring binoculars and a field guide. Ends 10/13		1.5 hour walk	Upper Beaver Meadows Trailhead			8 a.m.				8 a.m.
Autumn in the Rockies - Cool crisp air, beautiful fall colors, and bugling elk. Come on an easy walk to discover the many changes taking place this time of the year. Ends 10/6		1 - 1.5 hour walk	Upper Beaver Meadows Trailhead			10 a.m.		2 p.m.		2 p.m.
Lily Lake Stroll -Enjoy an easy walk around a lovely lake beneath Longs Peak while exploring the natural and human forces that have shaped this landscape. Ends 10/8		1- 1.5 hour walk	Lily Lake parking lot		1:30 p.m.	1:30 p.m.			10 a.m.	1:30 p.m.
Bear Necessities - The bear went over the mountain, the bear went over the mountain. ...to see this terrific program. Join a ranger to learn all about black bears.		20-30 minute talk	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center	10:30 a.m.			10:30 a.m.		10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.
Lumpy Ridge Hike - Explore the history, dramatic views, and diverse ecosystems found in this unique corner of the park on a moderate 2 mile hike. Ends 10/3		2-2.5 hour hike	Lumpy Ridge Trailhead				1:30 p.m.			
Amazing Beavers - Beavers drastically change their environment, and they have wonderful adaptations to do so.		20-30 minute talk	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center		10:30 a.m.	10:30 a.m.		10:30 a.m.		
Here Come The Beetles - Pine bark beetles are rapidly transforming our forests. Learn what this means for all species who share the park.		20-30 minute talk	Fall River Visitor Center	2 p.m.	2 p.m.		2 p.m.		2 p.m.	
Skins and Skulls - Examine the skins, skulls, antlers, teeth and bones of many park mammals. Great program for children.		20-30 minute talk	Fall River Visitor Center			11 a.m.		11 a.m.		11 a.m.
Elk Echoes - Learn about elk adaptations, migration, and mating behavior. Ends 10/8		30 minute talk	Sheep Lakes Parking Lot	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.	6 p.m.
Evening Programs - East										
Beaver Meadows Evening Program Enjoy a wide variety of informative and entertaining programs.		45 minute talk	Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Auditorium							7 p.m.

Free Park Movie



See the stunning 23-minute park movie at the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., and at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center during normal business hours. Available in Español (translation headsets available upon request) and English at Beaver Meadows. English only

at Kawuneeche. Features spectacular aerial footage of the rugged high country of Rocky Mountain National Park, as well as wildlife and park history. Captioned version available at Kawuneeche Visitor Center. Captioned and Audio Description versions available at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center.

Backcountry Camping

Permits are required for all overnight backcountry camping, and reservations are recommended for summer. Camping is allowed only in designated sites and areas. Permits may be obtained at the Beaver Meadows Backcountry Office or Kawuneeche Visitor Center. For further information write to: Backcountry Office, Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colorado 80517 or phone (970) 586-1242. The administrative permit fee of \$20 is required for backcountry permits between May 1 and October 31; there is no charge in winter.

Sprague Lake Accessible Backcountry Campsite

Reservations and information are available through the Backcountry Office at (970) 586-1242. This site accommodates 12 campers with a maximum of five wheelchair users at the camp. The administrative permit fee is \$20 from May 1 to October 31.



For your safety and the protection of park wildlife, carry in/carry out, commercially-made, hard-sided, bear-resistant food storage canisters are required of all backcountry campers parkwide between May 1 and October 31. Canisters may be rented or purchased at outdoor shops in surrounding communities. Pack out all garbage.



Scan this with your mobile device to download the Backcountry Camping Guide.

Free Ranger Programs - West Side



All children must be accompanied by an adult

Walks and Hikes		Length	Location	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Wilderness Connections – A moderate hike on a new section of the Continental Divide Trail featuring a lovely meadow and creek. September only.		1.5-2 hours 2 miles	Onahu Trailhead					2 p.m.		2 p.m.
Coyote Valley River Walk - Explore ecology and history on this easy walk along the Colorado River. September only.		1 hour 1 mile	Coyote Valley Trailhead				10:30 a.m.			10:30 a.m.
Rocky Mountain Heritage Walk - Learn about the human history of the Kawuneeche Valley while strolling to the grounds of an historic guest ranch. September only.		1.5 hours 1 mile	Holzwarth Historic Site Parking Area		2:00 p.m.					
Inside the Fence – Go inside an enclosure to learn about moose, elk and beaver and to explore habitat recovery first hand. M-W-F in September, then October 8 only.		1 hour 1 mile	Holzwarth Historic Site Parking Area		10:30 a.m.		2 p.m.		10:30 a.m.	
Beyond The Falls - A pleasant stroll to Adams Falls and a spectacular view just beyond. Su-Tu-F in September, then October 7 only.		1.5 hours 1 mile	East Inlet Trailhead	2 p.m.		10:30 a.m.			2 p.m.	
Seasons of Change - Discover changing seasons and changing forests along the lovely Colorado River Trail. September only.		1.5 hours 1 mile	Colorado River Trailhead			2 p.m.		10:30 a.m.		

Evening Programs - West

Timber Creek Campground Evening Program - Check at the campground or Kawuneeche Visitor Center for topics. Ends 9/22		1 hour presentation	Timber Creek Campground Amphitheater	7:45 p.m.	7:45 p.m.			7:45 p.m.	7:45 p.m.	7:45 p.m.
Saturday Night in the Park - Enjoy an evening program in the auditorium. For topics, inquire at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center. September 8 and October 6 only.		1 hour presentation	Kawuneeche Visitor Center Auditorium							7 p.m. 9/8 & 10/6

Special Programs

Behind The Scenes - Short videos documenting how the park addresses challenges like elk management, pine beetles, and bear safety. Daily in September, then October 6 and 8 only.		1 hour presentation	Kawuneeche Visitor Center Auditorium	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.	3 p.m.
Skins and Things - Examine the skins, skulls, antlers, teeth and bones of many park mammals. Daily in September, then October 6 and 7 only.		40 minutes	Kawuneeche Visitor Center	10 a.m.	10 a.m.	10 a.m.	10 a.m.	10 a.m.	10 a.m.	10 a.m.

Elk Day, Kawuneeche Visitor Center

10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Saturday, September 15 only

Learn all about these bugling beauties in a special day of elk activities. Rangers will be on hand from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center with fun family activities to share. Please drop in!



Family-Friendly Trails

Tight on time? Try one of these short walks in Rocky Mountain National Park. Some are accessible. Some allow strollers. All have educational brochures or signs. Pets are not permitted on park trails.

On the West Side

- Coyote Valley Trail
- Lulu City/Colorado River Trail
- Holzwarth Historic Site

On the East Side

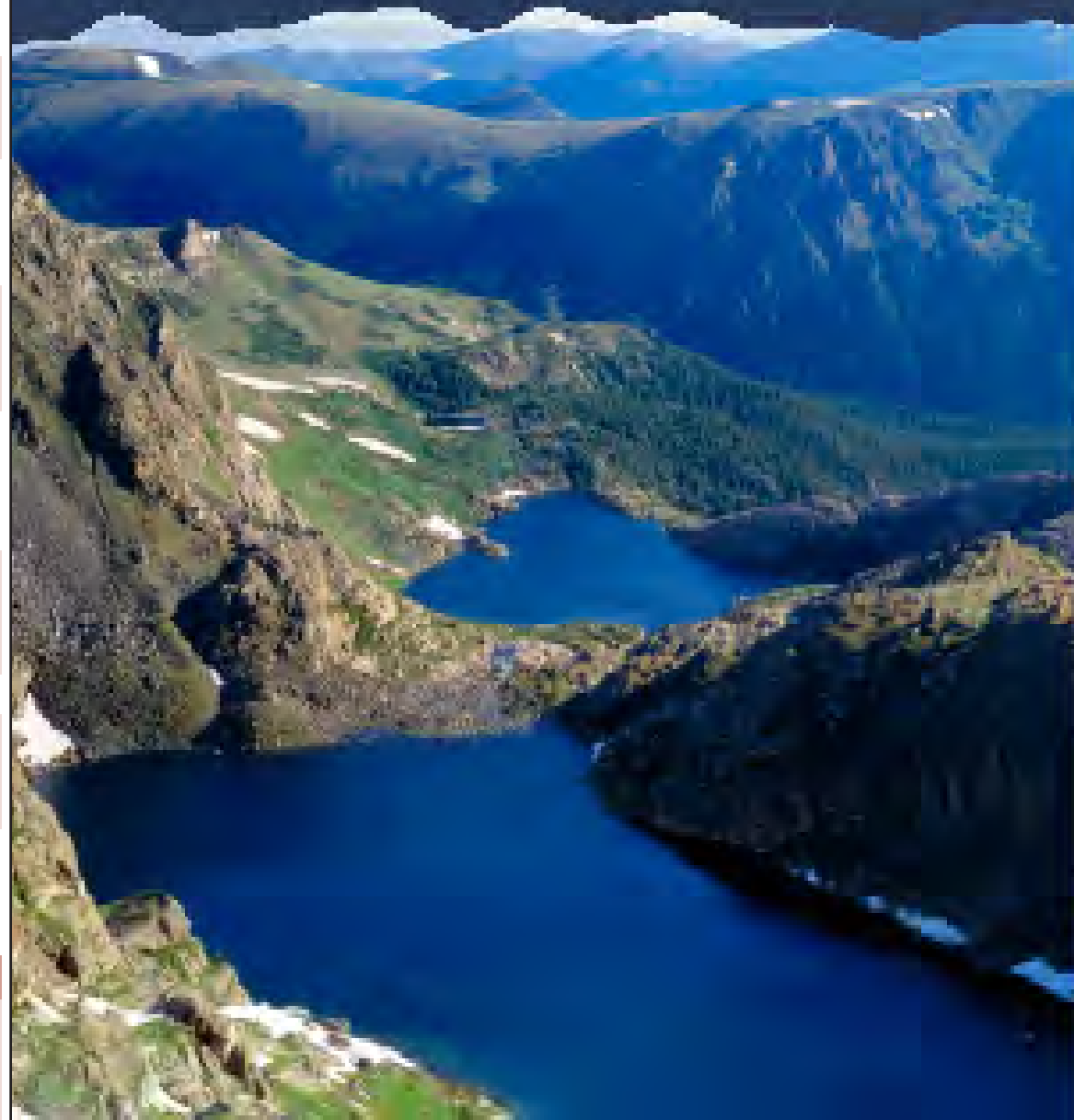
- Sprague Lake
- Moraine Park Visitor Center Nature Trail
- Lily Lake
- Bear Lake Nature Trail (partially accessible)
- Alluvial Fan
- Forest Canyon Overlook Trail
- Tundra Communities Trail at Rock Cut



Elk enclosure fence

Concession Services

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Moraine Park Visitor Center • Fall River Visitor Center
Kawuneeche Visitor Center

Rocky Mountain Nature Association • P.O. Box 3100, Estes Park, CO 80517 • (970) 586-0108 • rmna.org



ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SEMINARS IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK LEARN~EXPLORE~ADVENTURE

Park visitor
centers have more
information!

Hike with a Naturalist Series - September 7, 14, 21

Write Here in Rocky! - September 15-16

Capturing Wildlife Images - September 19-21

World of Wapiti: Rocky Mountain Elk - September 23

Photographing Elk & Aspen - September 30

Intro to Digital Image Post-processing - October 27



Rocky Mountain Field Seminars:

A program of the Rocky Mountain Nature Association

970-586-3262

www.rmna.org

Shuttle Bus Information

The park’s three shuttle routes are modified during the Bear Lake Road Reconstruction Project.

Beginning Tuesday May 29, through October 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bear Lake Road, from approximately one mile southwest of Moraine Park Visitor Center to Bear Lake, is accessible by free shuttle bus only, seven days a week. Private vehicles are allowed both directions prior to 9 a.m. and after 4 p.m. Visitors in private vehicles who make the 9 a. m. cutoff time are

allowed to travel eastbound throughout the day. All visitors, in private vehicles or shuttle buses, should expect at least two 20-minute delays both directions through the construction area. There are no construction delays between Park & Ride and Bear Lake. The road is closed to all traffic each Tuesday and Thursday night from 10:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m.



Buses on the Moraine Park Route run between the Moraine Park Visitor Center and the Fern Lake bus stop with stops at Moraine Park Campground, Cub

Lake Trailhead and Fern Lake bus stop. Moraine Park Route buses run every 20 minutes.

The first bus on the Moraine Park and Bear Lake routes departs from the Moraine Park Visitor Center at 7 a.m. and the last bus leaves at 7 p.m.

The last bus of the day on the Moraine Park and Bear Lake routes leave Bear Lake and Fern Lake trailheads at 7:30 p.m.

Buses on the Bear Lake Route run between Moraine Park Visitor Center and Bear Lake with stops at Hollowell Park, Park & Ride, Bierstadt

Trailhead, Glacier Gorge Trailhead and Bear Lake. Bear Lake Route buses run every 15 minutes but may be delayed during periods of road construction.

Buses on the Hiker Shuttle Route make stops at the Estes Park Fairgrounds Park-n-Ride, the Estes Park Visitor Center, the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, and the Moraine Park Visitor Center where passengers transfer to buses on either the Bear Lake

Route or the Moraine Park Route. The first bus leaves the Fairgrounds Park-n-Ride at 6:30 a.m. and the last bus leaves the Moraine Park Visitor Center bound for Estes Park at 8 p.m. The Hiker Shuttle runs on an hourly schedule early and late in the day, switching to a half-hour schedule from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

